



“Why not be a member
of a local church?”

So what do we mean by “membership” at Westwood? Membership is a voluntary commitment by one who professes Jesus as their Saviour, has experienced believers’ baptism, affirms our Confession of Faith and who desires to live in authentic community with fellow believers where personal sacrifice, service, and love for others abound.



1. The metaphor of the body speaks to intentional interconnectedness

I Corinthians 12:12-14

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

I Corinthians 12:15-16

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

I Corinthians 12:17-18

If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

I Corinthians 12:19-27

If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body...verse 24...but God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it (I Corinthians 12:12-27 ESV).



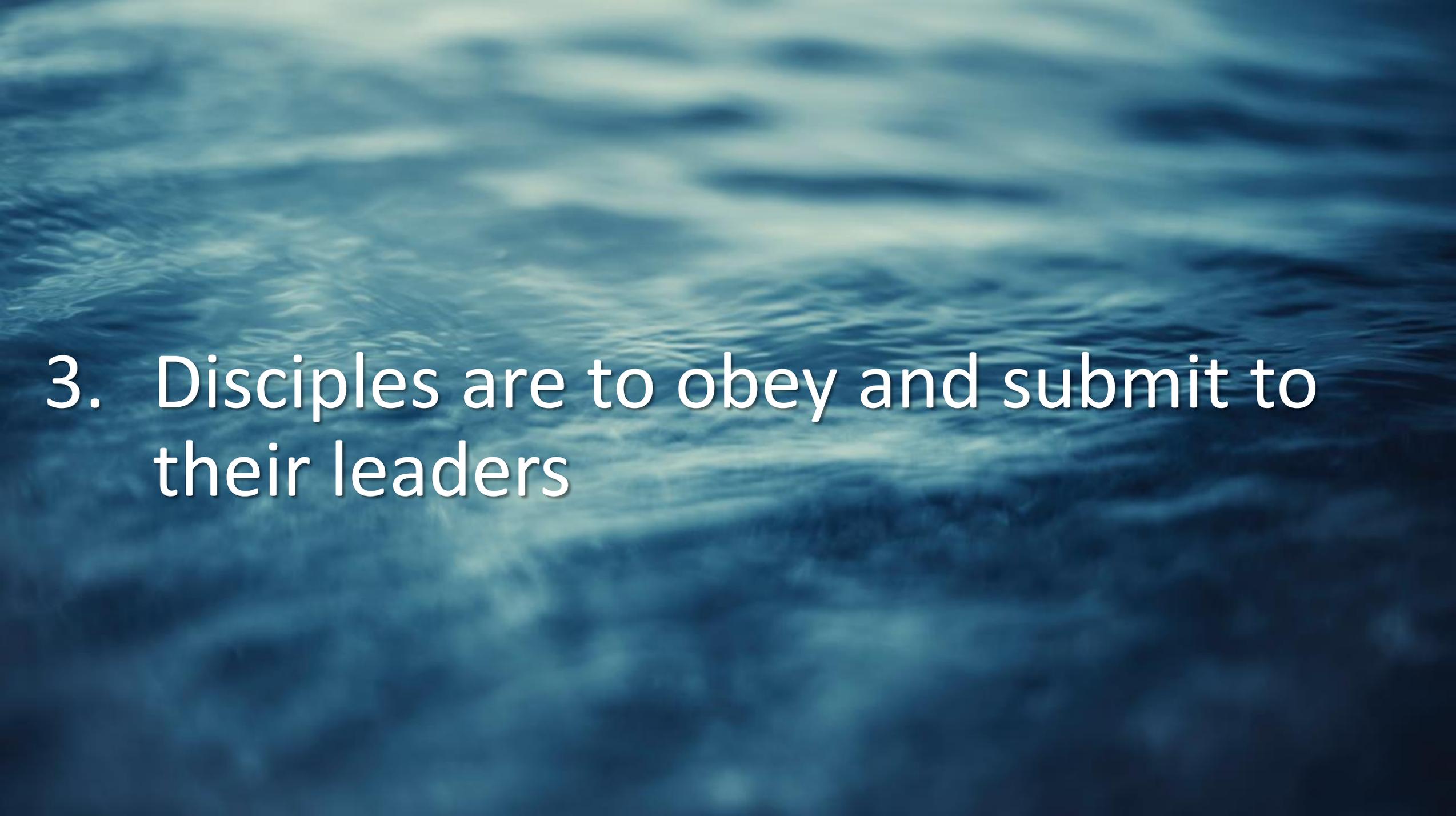
2. Shepherds are required to care for their flock

Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

I Peter 5:2-3

“Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock”.



3. Disciples are to obey and submit to their leaders

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.

I Thessalonians 5:12-13

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

4. The local church is charged with discipline of its wayward members

Matthew 18:15-17

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

A few possible responses...

If you have not obeyed Jesus in baptism but you desire to do this, why delay?

If you have followed Jesus through believer's baptism but have not declared your commitment to membership yet you are rooted at Westwood because it's your family, why not become a member?

If you are experiencing hurdles, have a chat with one of our spiritual leaders